



metropolitan washington

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

1225 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036 223-6800

September 24, 1974

Mr. Albert Levy, Chairman
Public Safety Citizen Advisory Committee
9702 Forest Glen Court
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Levy:

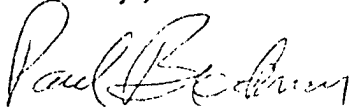
As chairman of the COG Board Committee on the Bicentennial, I wrote the chairman of each COG Policy Committee earlier this year soliciting recommendations for potential areas of COG involvement concerning Bicentennial activities in the region. In response to that original request and the recent well-attended COG Conference on the Bicentennial, many interesting and innovative suggestions and ideas were received.

The COG Board Bicentennial Committee has reviewed these suggestions and is in the process of preparing a series of recommendations to be considered by the Board of Directors. In the meantime, the Board at its September meeting adopted the recommendations of the Bicentennial Committee for the development of programs and mechanisms that are intended to engender cooperative planning of Bicentennial events among area local governments as well as to assist area governments in planning how to meet the strain on resources and service capabilities caused by the expected large influx of visitors. Several of COG's Committees are at work on subjects identified prior to the August 1st Conference.

Your Bicentennial Committee is now asking each policy and Citizen Advisory Committee to review the pertinent issues and recommendations arising from the August Conference together with issues previously identified. Enclosed is a work sheet identifying relevant issues and recommendations, plus those pertaining to the provision of information services (since these services cut across functional lines). Our Committee would be most grateful if your Public Safety Citizen Advisory Committee would undertake a review of these issues and recommendations at its next meeting.

Time is short. The visitor influx increase is expected to begin next Spring. To move from our planning to interlocal implementation at the operative and service delivery level will take several months. Decisions must be made and local implementation begun this Fall on most of the matters. Our decisions are only a first step.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul R. Brockman".

Paul R. Brockman, Chairman
COG Board Committee
on the Bicentennial

Encls.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (?)
Massive numbers of people expected to visit Washington for Bicentennial, causing many severe logistic problems. Local governments and agencies have the will and framework in place to combat these problems, but lack the resources	<p>Empower Bicentennial Committee to identify problem areas, send out communications, and make appropriate decisions, without necessitating Board approval for every decision.</p> <p>Establish a Regional Logistic Task Force to monitor and identify needs for Bicentennial on a continuing basis, reporting to COG Board; various jurisdictions be requested to make available personnel for activity of this Task Force; local jurisdictions be asked to designate lead agencies and if no lead agency is designated, then empower Bicentennial Committee to do so.</p> <p>At the same time, a core staff is necessary at COG. Continue to press for staff support from ARBA and the White House; reprogram at COG, designating three staff persons to work fulltime on Bicentennial.</p>	COG Board of Directors
Stimulate private industry to become involved with their resources in helping combat these logistic problems.	<p>Initiate a recognition program whereby awards would be given to private organizations who contribute to Bicentennial. A 3-part program, such as Alexandria's, might be useful on a regional basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Plan and carry out Bicentennial Program for employees and customers;2) Give % of budget to Bicentennial pot;3) Capital contributions and donations (paint, etc.)	COG Bicentennial Committee

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (2)
Formulate plans to deal with the large numbers of visitors expected, with little past experience in this area	Investigate those other large scale events occurring in the Washington area, such as the Cherry Blossom Festivals and Inaugurations.	
Provision of information to area information centers on what and where information can be found.	Establish a Central Information Center--one place that knows where to go for any information for use by other information centers.	At an emergency command level, and as an intercommunication network for various Bicentennial activities' exchange of information. ---Mayors' Command Center (George Roderick)
Provision of information to the public <u>before</u> arrival in Washington.	Encourage tour packagers to provide information to public as plans are being made; special Bicentennial car or rail lines into Washington	AMTRAK, Southern RR, Air Transportation Association, National Association of Travel Agents, Discover America Travel Organization, Dept. of Commerce Tourist Division.
	Provide information to Virginia and Maryland State Police patrolling Beltway.	COG Bicentennial Committee
Provision of information to the public while in Washington.	Establish contingency plans in case the National Visitors Center in Union Station, which should be the Center for information dissemination in Washington, is not completed by 1976 due to financial difficulties.	National Capital Park Service (Jack Fish)
	Introduce extensive signing system: a) directional; b) notices in public places and/or hotel rooms which warn tourists of possible fraud and explain simply the differences between legal and illegal business practices.	Examine the signing systems adopted by the 13 Original States Organization and the ARBA and the 4 Cities. Also

INFORMATION PROVISION (cont'd)

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (?)
	"Bicentennial Consumer Alert" - public service radio and/or television announcements and information notices/pamphlets	Mayors' Command Center (Roderick); COG Consumer Protection Committee, working with Consumer Protection Agencies.
	Easy to read publication(s) to assist all visitors. Information on transit, restaurants (perhaps listed by price range), accommodations, emergency services, and where to go for help might be included	Bob Lester (D.C.) with various organizations to develop set of informational brochures
	Special Information provision for the handicapped.	Prof. Donald Hawkins is compiling a guidebook for the elderly and handicapped to business and public facilities in Washington, D.C.
	And the International visitor	International Visitor Service Council.

TOURIST SERVICES

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (?)
Increase in numbers of fly-by-night operators, and less incentive for more reputable businesses to protect consumer interests due to increase in his demand.	Utilize existing consumer protection agencies where possible, increase personnel where needed.	COG Consumer Protection Tech. Comm. Human Resources Committee, to monitor and set general guidelines for region
	Encourage cooperation between consumer protection offices and the business community and help private industries to self-regulate	"
	Initiate a special inspection force to investigate business practices, potential exploitation, and false advertising.	"
	License tour guides.	"
	Institute special access phone numbers to consumer protection agencies for tourists	"
	Encourage consumer protection agencies to develop special procedures for handling and providing for investigation and prosecution of tourist fraud after the victim has returned home	"
	Encourage government agencies with regulatory powers to make it clear to private industry that they will enforce existing laws	Health Departments, Licensing Boards
	Monitor prices to keep them stable and fair	Corporation Counsel and Metropolitan Board of Trade.

PROBLEM:	POSSIBLE ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED(?)
	Require vendors to obtain identification tag and/or post bond	Vendors Association and D.C. Consumer Protection Office
A new labor pool to fill an expanded job market	Survey manpower needed and apprenticeship training programs in the area. If possible, insure the first opportunity to Washington residents to fill the new job openings. Develop a system of voluntary employment assistations which would provide information on job opportunities, housing, etc. to those who desire. After the Bicentennial demands recede, stimulate activities in order that this additional labor pool might be accommodated without overlooking the long term needs of the un- and under-developed in the area.	
In order to be adequate hosts; provision for: lost children	Lost people center	Traveler's Aid, D.C. Department of Human Resources
money gone, can't find work expected to find, check cashing information	Develop plans to meet these needs "	
Provision for long-term visitor services	Provision of adequate recreation facilities	
Provision of help to visitors	Police Training Program	D.C. Police Department (and regional)

<u>PROBLEM:</u>	<u>POSSIBLE ACTION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY FIXED(?)</u>
Provision of help to visitors	Host and Hostess program whereby citizens willing to be stopped for information wear buttons	

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (?)
Strain on emergency service facilities of local jurisdictions (e.g., increase in traffic accidents, fires, straining emergency services)	Facilitate coordinations of emergency services between local jurisdictions with outside organizations, such as Red Cross and the Military	Lead agency need be designated; MECCA Grant for part (?)
	Determine availability of emergency room facilities in area hospitals and develop a system whereby fire, police, etc., can talk directly with hospitals to utilize regional capacity to the fullest.	Lead agency need be designated; MECCA Grant for part (?)
	Institute a Landline Party Communication System	Defense Civil Preparedness Agency
Increased potential for large-scale disasters.	Investigate and prepare for possible large-scale disasters, such as: tent cities (danger of a windstorm), transportation accidents, crowds	Defense Civil Preparedness Agency; COG Public Safety Policy Committee; Energy Committee
Possibility of interference with provision of traditional emergency medical services.	Investigate and prepare for possible strikes and demonstrations; power or communication shortage.	Defense Civil Preparedness Agency; COG Public Safety Policy Committee, Energy Committee
Strains on specific resources and service capacities:		
water resources	Determine extent of problem; increase maintenance of catch basins; investigate use of tank cars in emergency	D.C. Dept. of Environmental Services, Health Administration; COG HEP Policy Committee; Bicentennial Committee
waste water treatment	Determine and quantify possible extent of problem	"
power	Determine and quantify possible extent of problem; encourage residents and visitors to limit use	"
solid waste	Adjust - Collection	"

PROBLEM:	NECESSARY ACTION:	RESPONSIBILITY FIXED (?)
sanitation	Increase number of litter containers, clean up vacant lots; insect, rodent, vermin control; increase surveillance at barber-shops, theaters, restaurants, etc.	D.C. Dept. of Environmental Services, Health Administration COG HEP Policy Committee; Bicentennial Committee
	Press for tough disposable container legislation	COG Board
Increase in air pollution from automobiles, incineration (with increased solid waste) and energy use	Determine and quantify possible extent of problem	COG HEP, Energy Committee
Provision of emergency action for the visitor	Develop and distribute a comprehensive health services directory, informing the visitor where to look for various services.	Bicentennial Committee to pull together the regional capability; need lead agency designated; COG Public Safety Committee
	Improve the "911" system so that Virginia residents might also use the system.	Virginia Telephone Company; Bicentennial Committee, Public Safety Committee, to approach them.

COG Registry
File public relations

Larry,

Sometime back I sent you some items from the COG Transportation Study on Bicentennial Impact because of the reference to a fringe parking lot recommendation at "Langley-McLean," which smells badly. (The concept was that when the three primary lots proved insufficient to handle Bicentennial tourist fringe parking needs, that government parking lots (ouch!) within the beltway and cleared-proposed-METRO station lands would be used.)

Predictions of the tourist input to the area are not decreasing as was hoped with the the fuel crisis and ranged from a simple doubling of tourist input from the normal 18 million to 35 million, as high as the Bureau of Census figure of 60 million==with the working estimates usually about 40-45 million in 1976, which means a tripling of the area's population during the summer of 1976 on any given "normal" day. And, therein could be some problems to the normal functioning of this Agency, not to mention the remainder of government. Attached for your casual reading and files is a summary of COG's overall recommendations in regard to the severe visitor impact anticipated in 1976, but starting perhaps as early as 1975. Some of these have no interest to the Agency, but others reflect some matters which will eventually have to be addressed, particularly the anticipated severe logistics problems viz gas stations, water, sewer, ambulance, police and fire, ready-to-eat foods, and frighteningly, where these people will stay!

After you have read this, perhaps you might want to address implications on the operation of the Agency during such turmoil.



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